

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01378 101321Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SSM-05
MCT-01 IO-13 /081 W
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R 101123Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 867

UNCLAS AMMAN 1378

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PINT JO
SUBJECT: LOCAL MEDIA REACTION TO KING HUSSEIN'S CAIRO MEETING
WITH ARAFAT

1. HUSSEIN-ARAFAT MARCH 8 CAIRO MEETING AND LUNCHEON
RECEIVED PROMINENT PLAY ON FRONT PAGES OF AMMAN NEWSPAPERS
MARCH 9, ALTHOUGH EDITORIALS USUALLY ACCOMPANYING
SUCH NOTEWORTHY EVENTS HAVE BEEN, WITH ONE
EXCEPTION, TOTALLY ABSENT. WHILE LOCAL TV COVERAGE
OF ARAB-AFRICAN SUMMIT WAS HEAVY, HUSSEIN-ARAFAT
MEETING RECEIVED ONLY A FEW SECONDS ON EVENING NEWS.

2. PRESS MARCH 9 DISPLAYED FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS OF
SMILING KING AND ARAFAT SHAKING HANDS. ARTICLES
REPORTED THAT DURING MEETING ATTENDED BY, AMONG
OTHERS, PM BADRAN AND PLO POLITICAL CHIEF QADDOUMI,
TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENTS IN JORDANIAN-
PALESTINIAN RELATIONS, AND THAT KING INVITED ARAFAT
TO VISIT JORDAN. "PLO LEADER IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE
IN JORDAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE." MENA IN CAIRO IS
QUOTED AS REPORTING THAT ARAFAT VISIT MIGHT TAKE
PLACE ANY MOMENT.

3. IN INTERVIEW FRONT-PAGE AR-RAYY MARCH 9, SA'ID
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KAMAL, QADDOUMI'S DEPUTY, PRAISED HUSSEIN-ARAFAT
MEETING AND TERMED IT BEGINNING OF ROAD LEADING TO
RESTORATION OF JORDANIAN-PLO RELATIONS TO NORMALCY--
"JUST AS ARE PLO RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB STATES."

4. PRESS MARCH 10 CONTAINED SHORT, FRONT-PAGE
REPORT FROM CAIRO SAYING THAT QADDOUMI CONFIRMED

ARAFAT'S INTENTION TO ACCEPT KING'S INVITATION TO
VISIT JORDAN, AND THAT VISIT WILL OCCUR IN NEAR
FUTURE. NO FURTHER MENTION OF ARAFAT APPEARS IN
ANY AMMAN NEWSPAPER, WITH EXCEPTION OF PAGE 8
EDITORIAL IN DAILY AL-AKHBAR; EDITORIAL LAUDS
HUSSEIN-ARAFAT MEETING AND TERMS IT EVIDENCE THAT
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALLIES IN STRUGGLE
AGAINST COMMON ENEMY ARE ALWAYS TEMPORARY.
PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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